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Les Touareg du Sud-est l'Air. Leur rôle dans la politique saharienne. Par Lieut. C. Jean. 361 pp., 2 Maps and 120 Illustrations from Photographs. Émile Larose, Paris, 1909.

The publishing house of Larose is very conspicuous in the production of the new works of exploration that are giving us exact knowledge of large parts of the Sahara. This is one of the most informing books on the desert thus far published, and we are not surprised that the military expeditions of France are adding so much to geographical information when we read the verbatim instructions given to the party that was sent north from Zinder to occupy the oasis of Air. This party was not only to establish a station there, but the kind and extent of the historical, geographical and ethnological studies they were to undertake were minutely particularized. The book gives a full and illuminating account of Air, which is one of the two or three most important centers of habitation in the southern Sahara.

Part 1 (78 pp.) gives an historical *résumé* of the French expansion in the southern Sahara. Nothing has afforded a clearer idea of the patience, the prudence and the wisdom of France in her slow and tentative efforts to gain a firm foothold in her new possession, among populations largely hostile, than is found in these chapters. France, for example, made no move towards Agades, the capital of Air, till the Touareg Sultan and his people were convinced that the French would do them good; that the existing native government would not be disturbed; that it would be made easier to send animals, their only export product, to other oases and the Sudan; that communications with the north and with Kano, the nearest commercial emporium in the south, would be safe-guarded and improved. Confidence in the French had been established in Air before any effort was made to occupy it in 1904. Lieut. Jean believes his government was over-cautious when it ordered the withdrawal of its representatives from Air at the time the Powers were wrestling with the Morocco question at Algéiras. France did not wish, in that crisis, to have too many irons in the fire. The Sultan said to the French, as they were sadly hauling down their flag: "You are like a man who has built him a house. He may leave his house, but he is free to come back to it, and so are you." The French found that this was true when they reoccupied Air in 1906.

Part 2 (181 pp.) is the chief and most instructive part of the book. It is devoted to the Air Oasis; gives its history, with the Hausas, Egyptians and Songrhay as its earliest known inhabitants; describes the advent of the Touaregs, Berbers of Algeria, driven into the desert by the Arab invasion of North Africa, slowly accommodating themselves to desert conditions, occupying many oases, spreading to the southern edge of the desert and making one of their strongholds in Air; epitomizes their history there till the French occupation; depicts with considerable detail, the geography, climate, resources and commerce of the country; tells of the political organization, the population groups and tribes, their life and customs from childhood to old age, their fanatical devotion to Islam, the degree of school instruction given by the marabouts, the Touareg industries, costume, alimentation, hygiene, maladies; their tribal dissensions, predatory expeditions and manner of warfare.

Part 3 (44 pp.) tells the story of the French occupation of the oasis and Part 4 (35 pp.) gives the author's views as to the predominant *rôle* that Air is to play in south Saharan affairs, and predicts that France is to exercise a pacific influence in the Sahara, adapting its peoples for modern conditions, bringing them into touch with the outer world by improving their communications, and blessing them, above

all, by establishing a régime of peace and security and teaching them to make the most of their resources. The author does not claim that this is a purely unselfish programme. France is to benefit largely, also, by turning the Sahara to good account.

Kulturgeschichtliche Streifzüge. Von Dr. Ernst Schultze. I. Aus dem Werden und Wachsen der Vereinigten Staaten. 225 pp. Im Gutenberg-Verlag, Hamburg, 1908. M. 2.

The title comprehends a great deal more than is included in the letterpress, which is merely sketchy and, in large part, trivial. Though the author tells us that half of our countrymen are of foreign origin, he includes all of us under the generic term "Yankees." He tells the story of Joshua A. Norton, of San Francisco, "Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico," of floating theaters on the Mississippi and of some other things that may beguile an idle hour but are very feebly edifying. The book seems to be adapted chiefly for the class of readers that has no preference for serious mental pabulum. It is a rather surprising volume to come from the pen of Dr. Schultze, who has geographical acumen and has done solid and discriminating work both as a geographical writer and editor.

Geography. Structural, Physical and Comparative. By J. W. Gregory. viii and 305 pp., 32 Plates and coloured Maps, 97 Illustrations in the text and Index. Blackie & Son, Ltd., London, 1908. 6s.

Prof. Gregory divides his book into four parts, considering (1) the Structure and Materials of the Earth; (2) Earth Forms and how they are made; (3) The Influence of the Atmosphere and Oceans; (4) Descriptive Geography, which includes considerably more than half of the book. Dr. Gregory has international reputation as an explorer and educator, but his book is not comparable with some of the recent American texts, for the excellent reason that he has not given himself sufficient space to cover adequately, for text book purposes, the wide fields of geographical knowledge he essays to treat. What he does is, on the whole, very well done, but he does not do enough. The treatment is necessarily sketchy, and though there is much that is meritorious in the work, its usefulness would seem to be largely confined to the suggestions which educators, well qualified to teach the subject, may find in its pages for their own amplification in the class room.

A Sketch of Historical Geography. By Keith Johnson. With an Appreciation of the Author by Sir Clements Markham. ix and 232 pp., 12 Maps and Index. Edward Stanford, London, 1909. 3s. 6d.

This is a reprint of the historical portion from the sixth edition of the author's well-known "Geography: Physical, Historical, Political and Descriptive." The latest edition appeared last year under the competent editorship of Dr. A. H. Keane. Johnston was known as an accomplished geographer for some years before his early death in African exploration, and his sketch of historical geography, now produced in this separate publication, has been called, on high authority, the best in our language.

Ortsnamen und Sprachwissenschaft. Ursprache und Begriffsentwicklung. Von Dr. Täuber. 259 pp., Illustration and Index. Art. Institut Orell Füssli, Zürich, 1908. M. 5.

It is by no means easy to discover just what object is sought to be attained in this work. It follows upon a very respectable series of investigations into the